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Hawkins

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2834
PATENT

9/27/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:
Christopher Scott Stenta

CASE NO.: AD6647 US NA

APPLICATION NO.: 09/703,425

CONFIRMATION NO.: 1386

GROUP ART UNIT: 2834

EXAMINER: DANG D. LE

FILED: NOVEMBER 1, 2000

FOR: BEARING SYSTEM WITH FLEXIBLE BEARING BRACKET

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June, 18, 2002, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓ Cancel claims 7, 18, 15 and 16.

REMARKS

35 USC § 102 (b):

In item 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 9 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Gruber et al. (US Patent No. 4, 783,608). Applicant contends that the present invention is not anticipated by Gruber. Gruber discloses the use of a rigid tubular support (8), with a sleeve (23) that is located between the rigid tubular support and the bearing (7). The sleeve is preferably a single piece elastomer for absorbing vibrations and shocks on the bearing surface. (col. 3 , lines 62-63). In contrast, claim 1 of Applicant's invention does not disclose a separate thin sleeve of elastomer but rather discloses the use of a bearing bracket, at least a portion of which, is an elastomeric material that is sufficiently flexible to be deflected by the rotor shaft for alignment of the bearing. Applicant's invention is able to accomplish alignment without the need for a separate

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